

Hello,

My name is Steven Simmons and I currently am a flight attendant for America West Airlines. Combined with the many years of service working for other airlines such as Northwest Airlines and American Trans Air, I have more then 13 years in this profession.

Over the years I have seen a lot of things as I am sure you can imagine. I am one of those flight attendants that will do anything for the customer even if that means breaking certain non safety company rules, as it's hard for many to be able to give up a sense of control that they often loose while on an airplane.

But I must go on record to say that passing/approving the to use cell phone while in flight is a major mistake.

Our safety is already a challenging factor each time a customer walks onto our aircraft. We get people from all walks of life and from all countries and we are required to maintain a safe and happy flight for all. All while trying to protect the flight deck, ourselves, the identities of federal air marshals and the customers.

During a hijacking we are trained to immediately be able to gather and provide detailed info concerning the hijackers and be prepared to for more to be hiding through out the airplane in what is called "a sleeper".

If you approve the use of cell phones will make this next to impossible to handle.

If we were to be hijacked. Nothing is going to stop the public in using their cell phones. So by legalizing it for every flight is not needed just so if that even should ever happen people could be making calls about it to the authorities. Don't you think they will be doing that anyway? Yes.

Not to mention the annoyance this is going to bring to other passengers seated around a person talking on the phone. You and I may have etiquette when talking on the phone. However the society in general have lost manners, respect for others and this will cause many confrontations between customers that frankly flight attendants should not be required to deal with.

We have enough to deal with and attempt to protect ourselves to the best we can. An example is my roommate was working a flight where he was assaulted from behind and was lifted into the air and tossed into a row of seats injuring him and requiring him to be off work. Flight attendants are not covered under laws such as OSHA like everyone else is. Therefore this incident required him to be off from work for 3 months where his short term disability paid him \$68.00 a week. That is it. Why did the passenger do what he did? Because 3 of the lavatories were clogged because other passengers (the same ones who will be using their cell phones if approved) tried to flush diapers down the toilets.

What problems will cell phones cause? The thought is most concerning and frankly, it scares me.

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